

{{Fact Sheet}}

(July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

What is child abuse or neglect?

Under Virginia law, an abused or neglected child is any child under 18 whose parent, or any other person responsible for the care of the child, does any or all of the following:

- causes or threatens to cause a non-accidental physical or mental injury, including, but not limited to a child who is with his parent during the manufacture or sale of certain drugs.
- neglects or refuses to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, emotional nurturing, or health care.
- abandons the child.
- fails to provide adequate supervision in relation to the child's age and level of development.
- commits or allows to be committed any illegal sexual act upon a child including incest, rape, fondling, indecent exposure, prostitution, or allows a child to be used in any sexually explicit visual material.
- knowingly leaves a child alone in the same dwelling with a person who is not related to the child by blood or marriage and who is required to register as a violent sexual offender.

Child abuse is not usually just one physical attack or just one instance of failure to meet a child's most basic needs. Usually child abuse is a pattern of behavior which takes place over a period of time. The longer child abuse continues, the more serious it becomes, and the more difficult it is to help.

How many children were reported as victims of maltreatment in Virginia?

From July 2014 through June 2015, **49,868** children were reported as possible victims of abuse and/or neglect in **33,020** completed reports to Virginia's city and county departments of social services.

Were all these reports founded?

Founded means that a review of the facts shows a preponderance of the evidence supports a founded report. **6,592** children were victims in founded reports of child abuse and/or neglect.

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1-800-552-7096 Virginia Child Abuse Hotline (language line available)

800-Children (800-244-5373) Parent Helpline